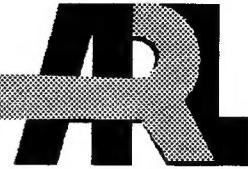


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# Pulsed Laser Deposition of Ferroelectric Thin Films in Conjunction With Superconducting Oxides

S. Sengupta, L.C. Sengupta, J.D. Demaree,  
and W. Kosik

ARL-TR-654

December 1994

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| <b>REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE</b>  |  |   | <i>Form Approved<br/>OMB No. 0704-0188</i> |
|---|--|---|--|
| <p>Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to Washington Headquarters Services, Directorate for Information Operations and Reports, 1215 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 1204, Arlington, VA 22202-4302, and to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0704-0188), Washington, DC 20503.</p>   |  |   |  |
| 1. AGENCY USE ONLY (Leave blank)  | 2. REPORT DATE   | 3. REPORT TYPE AND DATES COVERED                        |  |
|   | December 1994  |   |  |
| 4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE<br><b>Pulsed Laser Deposition of Ferroelectric Thin Films in Conjunction with Superconducting Oxides</b>  |  | 5. FUNDING NUMBERS                                      |  |
| 6. AUTHOR(S)<br>S. Sengupta, L.C. Sengupta, J.D. Demaree, and W. Kosik  |  |   |  |
| 7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)<br>Army Research Laboratory<br>Watertown, MA 02172-0001<br>AMSRL-MA-CA   |  | 8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER<br>ARL-TR-654  |  |
| 9. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)   |  | 10. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY REPORT NUMBER          |  |
| 11. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES   |  |   |  |
| 12a. DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY STATEMENT<br>Approved for public release, distribution unlimited.  |  | 12b. DISTRIBUTION CODE                                  |  |
| <p>13. ABSTRACT (Maximum 200 words)</p> <p>The possibility of combining ferroelectrics and superconductors has been of interest for use in memory storage devices. Additionally, superconductors offer crystal structures compatible to the epitaxial growth of the ferroelectric, <math>\text{Ba}_{0.6}\text{Sr}_{0.4}\text{TiO}_3</math> (BSTO), which is cubic at this stoichiometry. BSTO has a lattice constant of <math>3.94 \text{ \AA}</math> as compared to the superconducting <math>\text{Pr}_{2-x}\text{Ce}_x\text{CuO}_4</math> tetragonal single crystal which also has a lattice constant of <math>a=3.94 \text{ \AA}</math>. (minor variations with Cerium content). In this study, ferroelectric thin films of BSTO were deposited on single crystals of <math>\text{Pr}_2\text{CuO}_4</math> and <math>\text{Pr}_{2-x}\text{Ce}_x\text{CuO}_4</math>. The optical constants of the substrates, single crystals of <math>\text{Pr}_2\text{CuO}_4</math> and <math>\text{Pr}_{2-x}\text{Ce}_x\text{CuO}_4</math>, were determined using Variable Angle Spectroscopic Ellipsometry (VASE) and the composition and crystal structure were examined using Rutherford Backscattering Spectrometry (RBS) with ion beam channeling. The substrate/film interfaces and the compositional variation in the films were also studied with RBS and with SEM / EDS. Glancing angle x-ray diffraction was used to verify the epitaxial nature of the films. The effect of the deposition parameters (laser repetition rate, oxygen backfill pressure, and deposition geometry) on the quality of the films was experimented with previously and only the optimized parameters were used.</p> |  |   |  |
| 14. SUBJECT TERMS<br><b>PLD, Ferroelectric Films, BSTO, Superconducting Oxides</b>  |  |   | 15. NUMBER OF PAGES<br>13                  |
|   |  |   | 16. PRICE CODE                             |
| 17. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF REPORT<br>Unclassified   | 18. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF THIS PAGE<br>Unclassified | 19. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF ABSTRACT<br>Unclassified | 20. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT<br>UL           |

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## INTRODUCTION

There has been a significant interest in the possibility of combining superconductors with ferroelectrics for application in memory storage devices by using the superconductors for electrodes [1]. The idea of using single crystal superconductors for substrates, however, has not been rigorously investigated. There are advantages to using these oxides as substrates. One of which is the excellent lattice match between the Barium Strontium Titanate,  $Ba_{0.6}Sr_{0.4}TiO_3$ , BSTO, and the crystal. Also the possibility of using the substrate itself as the bottom electrode is an attractive alternative to a metallic bottom electrode which can cause shorting [2].

In this study, the Top Seeded Solution Growth technique has been used to obtain single crystals of  $Pr_{2-x}Ce_xCuO_4$  ( $x=0$  and  $x=0.17$ ). This technique, unlike other growth procedures, can produce large specimens that contain fairly uniform dopant distributions [3]. The cuprate substrates had been annealed in an attempt to decrease its resistivity. The effect of the Ce doping and annealing on the optical constants has been monitored using VASE, and the effect of both the Ce doping and annealing on the crystal structure of the substrates has been examined using RBS with ion beam channeling.

Films of  $Ba_{0.6}Sr_{0.4}TiO_3$  have been deposited onto the crystals using Pulsed Laser Deposition (PLD); the films were then examined using RBS, SEM / EDS, and glancing angle x-ray diffraction. The effect of the deposition parameters on the quality of the films as measured by these analytical techniques will be discussed.

## EXPERIMENTAL

The single crystal specimens had their c-axis oriented perpendicular to the crystal surface. The as-grown crystals were analyzed using the techniques mentioned above. The details of the RBS and VASE experiments analysis are given below. Both the crystals were annealed at  $950\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  for about 15 hours in flowing argon. The crystals were then re-examined [4].

The PLD was accomplished using a krypton-fluoride excimer laser with a wavelength of 248 nm and a repetition rate of 10 Hz. The average pulse energy was 300 mJ. The oxygen partial pressure in the chamber was 200 mT and the substrate temperature was  $520\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ . The substrate temperature was monitored by clamping the thermocouple in-between the heater and the substrate. The powder processed ceramic targets were prepared according to a description published previously [5]. The ablation target chosen for this work was  $Ba_{0.6}Sr_{0.4}TiO_3$ .

The RBS technique used involved the acceleration of  $\text{He}^+$  ions to 2 MeV by a National Electrostatics Corporation (NEC) tandem pelletron accelerator. This  $\text{He}^+$  ion beam is collimated to a 1 mm diameter beam which is incident upon the crystal / film. The scattered helium ions were detected at a backscattering angle of  $170^{\circ}$  with a surface barrier detector. The energy resolution of the detection system is 20 KeV to 25 KeV. The (001) channeled spectra were obtained by rotating the samples about the beam axis ( $\phi$ ) and perpendicular to it ( $\theta$ ), until a minimum yield was located. The minima in the backscattering yield occurs when the incident beam is aligned along certain planar and/or axial symmetry directions in the crystal, i.e., channeling. When the beam is not aligned in either direction, no channeling is present and the *random* spectrum is obtained. The energy detection system is calibrated with a standard prior to data acquisition. The elements in the crystal are determined from the detected energies of the

backscattered ions which are related to the mass of the atoms. The composition of the crystals / films were obtained by utilizing the software program RUMP to fit the data [6].

The ellipsometry data was obtained using a J.A. Woollam VASE. In this system, the elliptically-polarized light produced by reflecting plane-polarized light from the surface under study is modulated by a rotating analyzer. Both the wavelength of the monochromatic incident light and the angle of incidence can be varied. At each wavelength, after 150 revolutions of the analyzer, a data acquisition program subtracts a reading obtained with the shutter closed from a reading obtained with the shutter open. During a measurement, the wavelength is scanned from 4000 Å to 8000 Å at steps of 100 Å. Two angles of incidence were examined at each spot.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Analysis of the Single Crystal Substrates

#### RBS Results

Figures 1 and 2 show the random and channeled RBS spectra of  $\text{Pr}_2\text{CuO}_4$  and  $\text{Pr}_{2-x}\text{Ce}_x\text{CuO}_4$  single crystals. The insets show an expanded energy scale (x-axis) of the channeled spectra. The horizontal axis is proportional to the energy at which the backscattered ion was detected. The vertical axis is the normalized yield. The ratio of the elements (in atomic %) were determined by the best fit of the RUMP simulation. The ratio of the elements and the minimum yield obtained for each element are given in Table 1.

As indicated in Fig. 2, Pr and Ce atoms cannot be resolved in the RBS spectra due to similar mass; so in the simulation  $x = 0.17$  for Ce is used in place of Pr in the doped specimen. This value for  $x$  was determined from the x-ray diffraction data. As seen in the figures, Pt (up to 1%) is incorporated into the crystal through contamination by the crucible. It should be noted that Pt is seen to exhibit channelling behavior which can be observed by the definite appearance of a sharp peak and a low minimum yield in the channeled spectra. This indicates that Pt is in substitutional sites. It is assumed that Pt substitutes for Cu in the specimen, as was seen in a previous report [7]; where substitution causes the critical temperature,  $T_c$ , to decrease.

Table 1. Elemental Proportions (Atomic%) and Minimum Yields (%) Obtained from the Best RUMP Fit to the RBS Data for  $\text{Pr}_2\text{CuO}_4$  and  $\text{Pr}_{2-x}\text{Ce}_x\text{CuO}_4$ .

| Sample                                   | Pr (%),<br>Min.<br>Yield<br>(%) | Ce(%),<br>Min.<br>Yield<br>(%) | Cu(%),<br>Min.<br>Yield<br>(%) | O(%),<br>Min.<br>Yield<br>(%) | Pt(%),<br>Min.<br>Yield<br>(%) |
|--|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| $\text{Pr}_2\text{CuO}_4$                | 29.0,<br>5                      | N/A<br>N/A                     | 12.0,<br>5                     | 58.0<br>N/A                   | 1.0<br>5                       |
| $\text{Pr}_{2-x}\text{Ce}_x\text{CuO}_4$ | 22.1,<br>4                      | 4.5,<br>4                      | 14.4,<br>40                    | 58.4,<br>N/A                  | 0.6,<br>40                     |

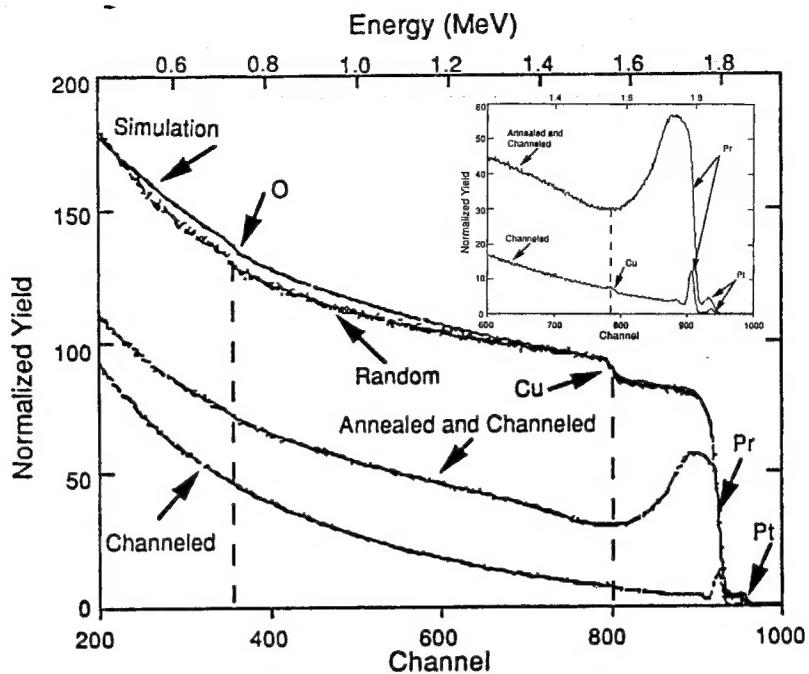


Figure 1. Random and channelled RBS spectra and simulation obtained from a fit to data for  $\text{Pr}_2\text{CuO}_4$ . Inset shows expanded energy scale (x-axis) for the channelled spectra.

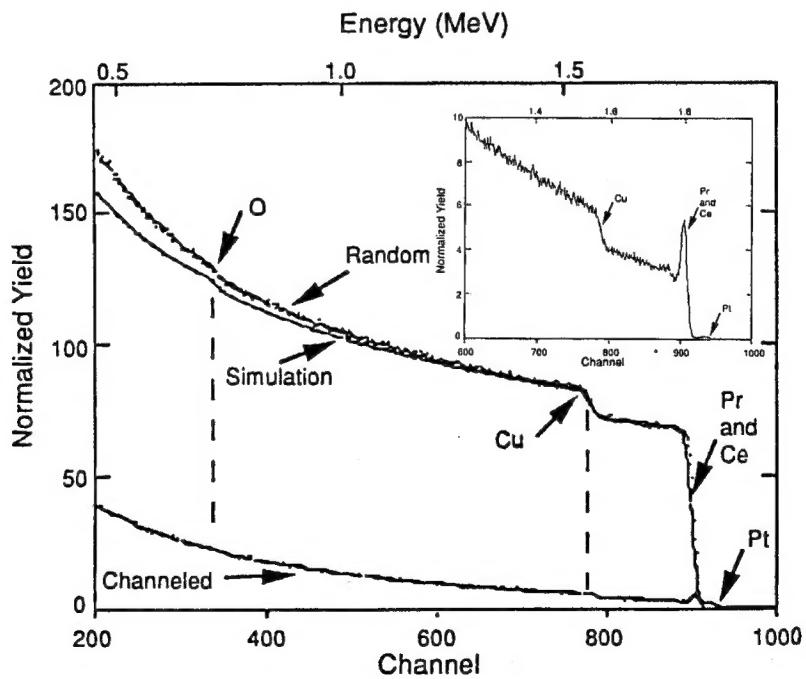


Figure 2. Random and channelled RBS spectra and simulation obtained from a fit to data for  $\text{Pr}_{2-x}\text{Ce}_x\text{CuO}_4$ . Inset shows expanded energy scale (x-axis) for the channelled spectra.

In general, the minimum yield obtained for the elements, as seen in Table 1, is very low indicating the crystal is well-oriented and the crystalline structure is very well-ordered. As shown in the figures, most elements appear predominantly substitutional since channeling occurs for all elements in both crystals. However, as shown in Figure 2 (inset), for the  $\text{Pr}_{2-x}\text{Ce}_x\text{CuO}_4$  sample, Cu/Pt do not channel as well as indicated by their higher yields. Since both Cu and Pt appear to channel relatively poorly in this specimen, it is consistent with Pt substituting for Cu in the material. Also, the poor channeling may indicate that Cu/Pt are slightly displaced from their lattice sites. Previous workers have noticed a bending of Cu-O chains upon doping in the material [8]. The Ce doping may also cause this distortion in the crystal. The channeled spectrum for the annealed  $\text{Pr}_2\text{CuO}_4$  sample is shown in Figure 1. As shown in the figure, the minimum yield for the Pr has increased to  $\sim 30\%$ . However, the yield is not as high as for a random spectrum. This implies some disorder, from the creation of oxygen vacancies and/or surface realignment. Also, the back ledge of the spectrum does not have as low a yield as the unannealed sample. This could be due to the presence of oxygen vacancies throughout the sample or from dechanneling from the disordered surface.

### VASE Results

In Figs. 3 and 4, the VASE spectra of the imaginary part of the dielectric function for both  $\text{Pr}_2\text{CuO}_4$  and the  $\text{Pr}_{2-x}\text{Ce}_x\text{CuO}_4$  are shown. As shown in Fig. 3, an absorption peak appears at 1.5 eV (at 8000 Å). This absorption peak has been assigned to a bound charge transfer excitation from the Cu(3d) to O(2p) in the Cu oxygen plane [9,10]. The sharpness of the transition may be due to the lack of a decay channel for the excited carrier [7]. In Figure 4, which shows the VASE spectrum of the  $\text{Pr}_{2-x}\text{Ce}_x\text{CuO}_4$  specimen, the material becomes conducting upon doping with Ce, the 1.5 eV transition is suppressed from the introduction of free-carriers which act to produce screening of the Cu oxygen planes. In Fig. 5, the VASE spectrum of the imaginary part of the dielectric function of the annealed  $\text{Pr}_2\text{CuO}_4$  sample is shown. The oscillator strength for the transition is decreased (transition is weakened) and it is shifted downward in energy. The weakening and downward shift of the peak may be caused by the opening of a decay channel for the carrier. The decay channel may be viewed as disorder in the material as also observed in the RBS data.

### Analysis of the Films and Film / Substrate Interfaces

#### SEM / EDS Results

The SEM micrograph of the surface of the BSTO film on the  $\text{Pr}_2\text{CuO}_4$  substrate is shown in Fig. 6. As shown in the figure, the film surface is fairly uniform. However, particulates are evident on the surface. EDS was performed on the particulates, and results show that the particulates consist of Ba, Sr, Ti, and O. Pr and Cu are also present. It is apparent from the compositional analysis, that the particulates have been expelled from the target. Also as noted above, the compositional analysis of the film reveals the elements from the target and from the substrate. The nominal thickness of the film was measured by a Dektak profilometer to be 3000 Å which made it transparent to the electron beam. The EDS analysis of the BSTO film deposited on  $\text{Pr}_{2-x}\text{Ce}_x\text{CuO}_4$  specimen also revealed Ba, Sr, Ti and O as well as Pr, Ce, and Cu.

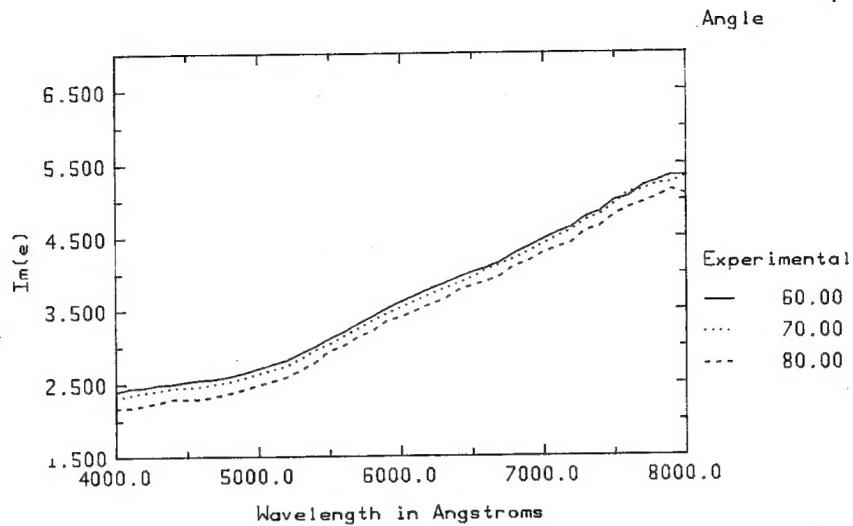


Figure 3. VASE spectrum of the imaginary part of the dielectric function versus wavelength for the  $\text{Pr}_2\text{CuO}_4$  sample,  $\theta = 60^0, 70^0$  and  $80^0$ .

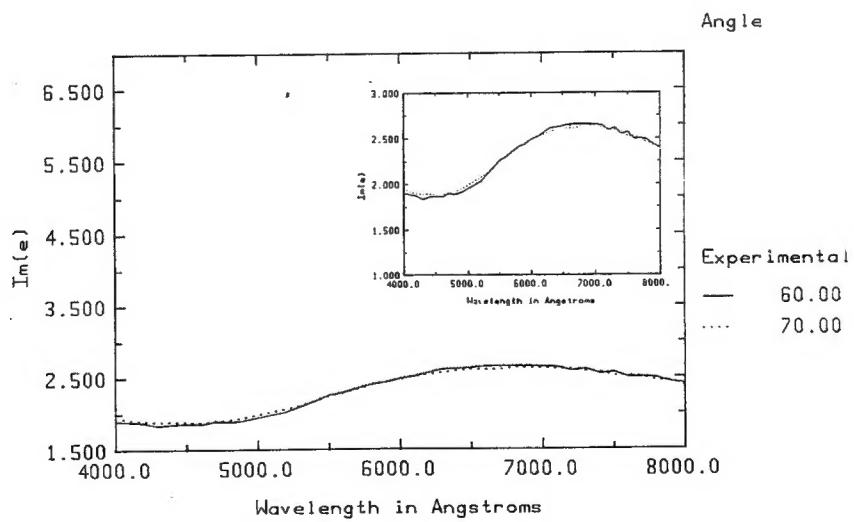


Figure 4. VASE spectrum of the imaginary part of the dielectric function versus wavelength for the  $\text{Pr}_{2-x}\text{Ce}_x\text{CuO}_4$  sample,  $\theta = 60^0$  and  $70^0$ , (inset shows an expanded y-scale of the sample).

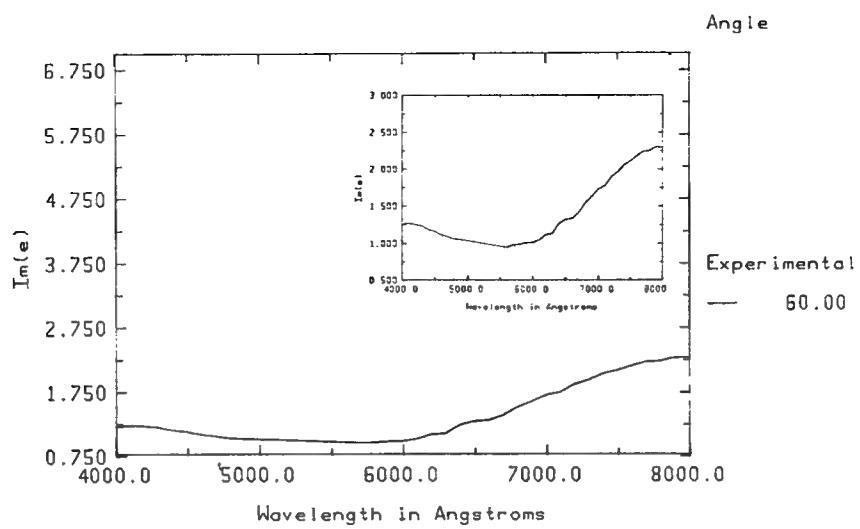


Figure 5. VASE spectrum of the imaginary part of the dielectric function versus wavelength for the annealed  $\text{Pr}_2\text{CuO}_4$  sample, (inset shows an expanded y-scale of the sample),  $\theta = 60^0$ .

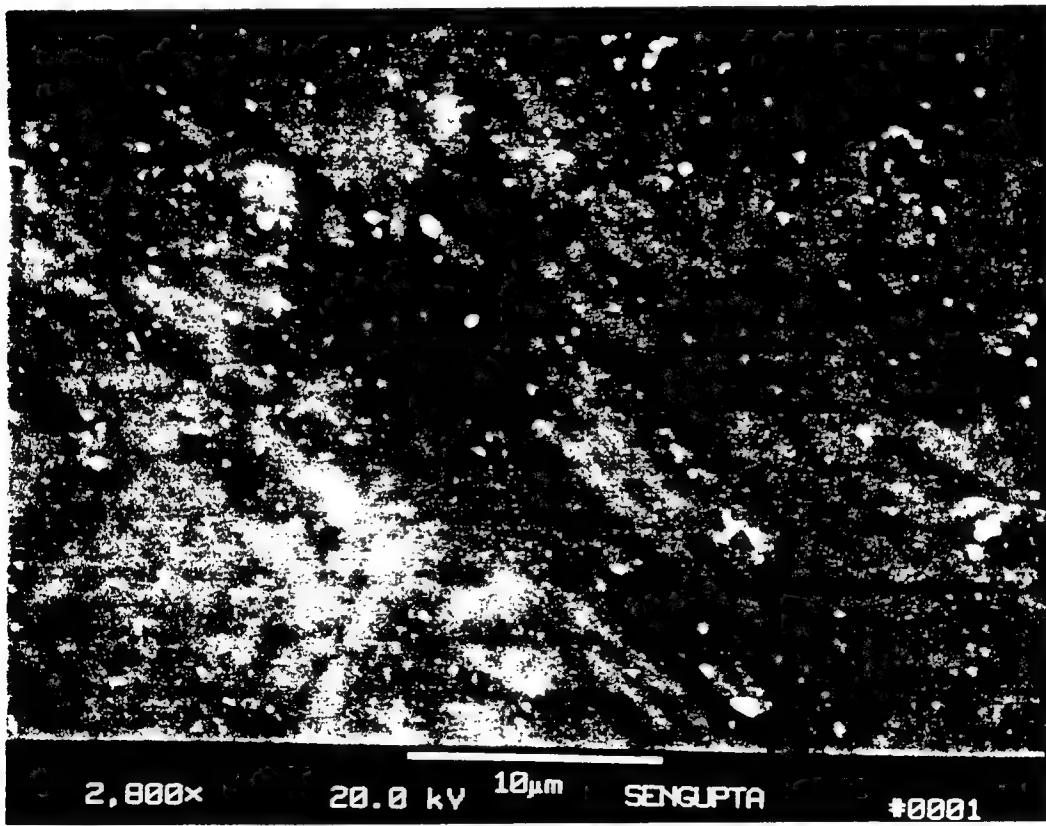


Figure 6. SEM micrograph of the  $\text{Ba}_{0.6}\text{Sr}_{0.4}\text{TiO}_3$  film deposited on  $\text{Pr}_2\text{CuO}_4$  single crystal substrate.

### RBS Results

The RBS spectrum for the BSTO film on the  $\text{Pr}_2\text{CuO}_4$  substrate is shown in Fig. 7. The dotted line is the measured data for the RBS spectra and the solid line is the RUMP fit to the data. As shown in the Fig. 8, this fit was done by subtracting the measured RBS spectra for the  $\text{Pr}_2\text{CuO}_4$  single crystal and by adding the stoichiometrically correct peaks for Ba, Sr, and Ti. Therefore, it is evident from the fit to the data, that the film that was deposited was stoichiometrically identical to the target, which is  $\text{Ba} = 0.60$ ,  $\text{Sr} = 0.40$ , and  $\text{Ti} = 1.03$ , and  $\text{O} = 3.0$ .

However, as shown in Fig. 9, the simulated spectrum does not show a good fit to the RBS spectrum of the BSTO film (inset shows the expected positions for Ba, Sr, and Ti) on Ce doped  $\text{Pr}_2\text{CuO}_4$ . This may be attributed to the poor surface quality of the substrate. As observed for the substrate, from the RBS data, it is apparent that the crystal has a oxygen rich and disordered surface as indicated by the poor channeling for Cu/Pt sites. Therefore the front part of the spectrum is seen to slope downward or "roll-off". Therefore, the RBS data cannot be used to make any conclusive analysis of the film deposited on this substrate.

### Glancing Angle X-ray Diffraction

The glancing angle x-ray diffraction data for the BSTO film deposited on  $\text{Pr}_2\text{CuO}_4$  is shown in Fig. 10 (inset shows the x-ray diffraction pattern for the  $\text{Ba}_{0.6}\text{Sr}_{0.4}\text{TiO}_3$  target material). A rotating anode x-ray unit emitting  $\text{Cu-K}\alpha$  ( $1.5415 \text{ \AA}$ ) emission was used as the source. The x-ray beam was incident on the sample at an angle of 1 degree to the surface of the film. The x-ray pattern matches closely to that for  $\text{Ba}_{0.6}\text{Sr}_{0.4}\text{TiO}_3$ . The  $hkl$  values for these peaks are indicated on the figure. However, another phase is also present in the film. This phase corresponds to  $\text{Ba}_{0.91}\text{Sr}_{0.09}\text{TiO}_4$  and the x-ray peaks for this phase are indicated on the figure by an asterisk.

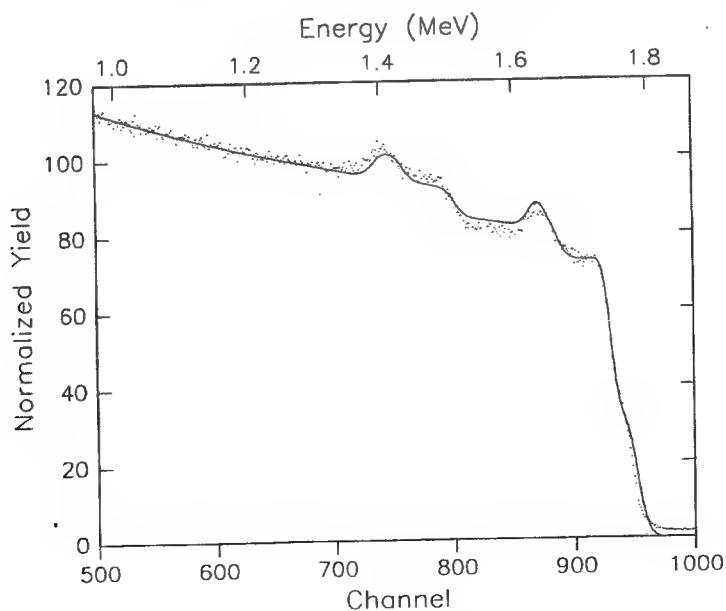


Figure 7. RBS spectrum for the BSTO/ $\text{Pr}_2\text{CuO}_4$  sample (dotted line) and a fit to the data (solid line) obtained from the measured data for the  $\text{Pr}_2\text{CuO}_4$  substrate and the film containing  $\text{Ba}_{0.6}\text{Sr}_{0.4}\text{TiO}_3$ .

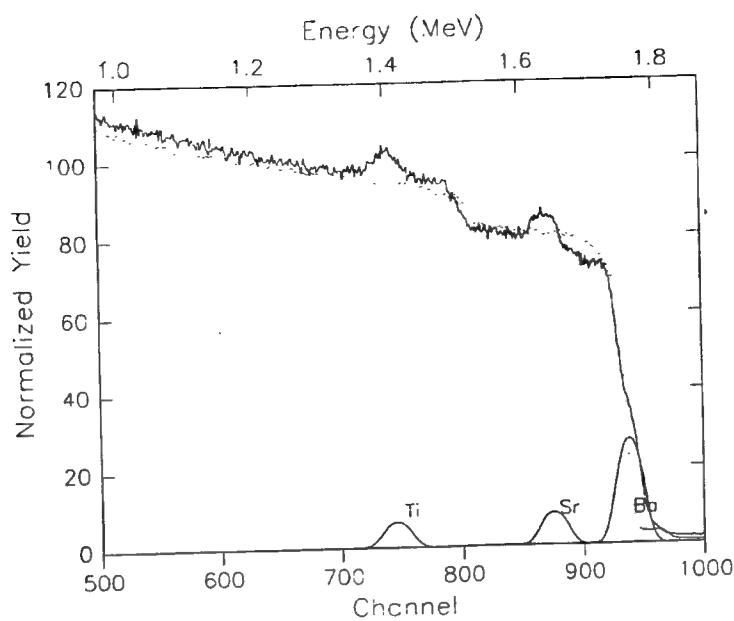


Figure 8. RBS spectrum for the BSTO /  $\text{Pr}_2\text{CuO}_4$  sample (solid line) and the RBS spectrum for the  $\text{Pr}_2\text{CuO}_4$  crystal (dotted line) and the corresponding peaks for Ba, Sr, and Ti.

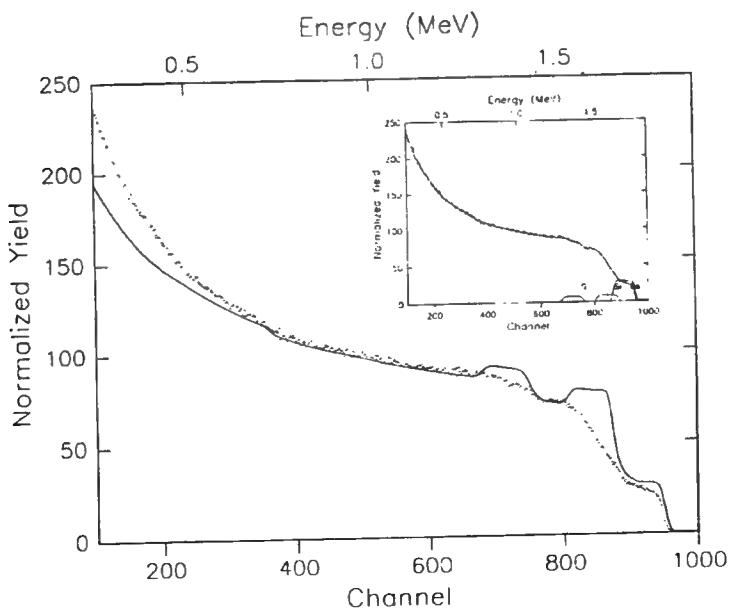


Figure 9. RBS spectrum for the  $\text{BSTO} / \text{Pr}_{2-x}\text{Ce}_x\text{CuO}_4$  sample (dotted line) and a fit to the data (solid line), (inset shows the expected position of the Ba, Sr, and Ti peaks).

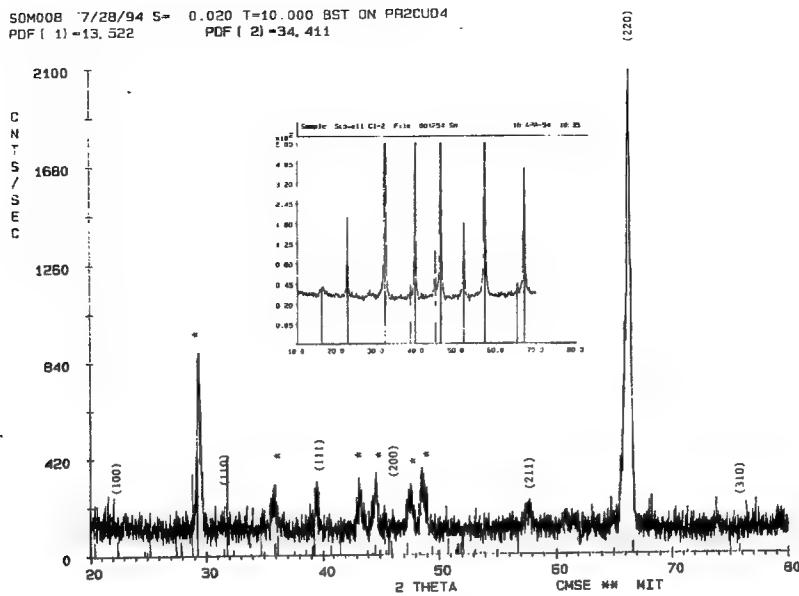


Figure 10. Glancing Angle X-ray Diffraction pattern for BSTO deposited on Pr<sub>2</sub>CuO<sub>4</sub> (inset shows the x-ray diffraction pattern for the Ba<sub>0.6</sub>Sr<sub>0.4</sub>TiO<sub>3</sub> target material).

As shown in the inset the target material does not contain this secondary phase and it is not observed when the films are deposited on other substrates. The presence of this phase may be attributed to the film-substrate interaction, possibly due to the presence of surface disorder (oxygen vacancies) as indicated by the RBS and VASE data of the substrate. Further investigations on this specimen are currently being done.

### CONCLUSION

The crystal structures and composition of the cuprate crystals were investigated using RBS with ion beam channeling. The minimum yields obtained for the elements in the crystals indicate that the crystals are well-oriented and very ordered. The addition of Cerium to the material causes a slight displacement of Cu from its normal lattice site. Also, Pt was included in the crystals due to the contamination from the crucible. The spectrum of the annealed crystal shows disorder which was confirmed by RBS and VASE data.

The RBS spectrum of the laser ablated BSTO / Pr<sub>2</sub>CuO<sub>4</sub> film indicated similar film and target compositions. However, the presence of a barium rich secondary phase (Ba<sub>0.91</sub>Sr<sub>0.09</sub>TiO<sub>4</sub>) was evident from x-ray studies. This phase may have been created due to the presence of the oxygen vacancies present in the substrate due to annealing. The RBS data of the BSTO / Pr<sub>2-x</sub>Ce<sub>x</sub>CuO<sub>4</sub> sample is inconclusive due to the poor surface quality of the substrate. The incorporation of superconducting electrodes with ferroelectric materials is presently under investigation.

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The authors wish to thank Dr. Arlete Cassanho for the cuprate crystals and Dr. Allen Kirkpatrick of Epion Corporation, Bedford, MA for his help.

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